

# Suspect charged with 10 holdups at same market

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An Oakland man was charged Thursday with 10 counts of robbery—all at the same meat market.

And it was his own carelessness that led to his arrest, police say.

The suspect, Charles Van Hook, 19, was arrested Tuesday during a routine traffic stop after eluding capture for almost a year.

Sgt. Tom Hoban said investigators believe Van Hook is responsible for 10 robberies that occurred at Gene's Meats, 9615 E. 14th St., between May 1978 and April 1979.

In each instance, the robber would enter the store, vault the counter and rob owner Walter Soo at gunpoint.

The robberies stopped about

the same time Van Hook was identified as the alleged suspect.

He was singled out, Hoban said, because of a cleaning slip left in a coat dropped at the scene of another robbery.

Hoban went to the store that issued the cleaning slip and was told the slip was given to Van Hook.

Hoban got a picture of Van Hook and since his description matched that of the suspect in the robberies of Gene's Meats, he showed the picture to Soo. Soo identified him and officers started looking for Van Hook.

Hoban said Soo had kept two calendars on his wall marking each day Van Hook allegedly robbed him. But Soo can't stop marking the calendars because police are still looking for another man who has robbed him six times.